GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7317
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
CO-OPERATION WITH US PHARMA SECTOR
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American leading research based pharma and bio-technology companies have asked the US Government to designate India as a priority foreign country to review process and initiate dispute settlement proceedings in WTO to challenge India`s failure to meet its current WTO obligations under the TRIPS agreement;

(b) if so, whether the US Pharma companies have decided to increase the investment by another $ 2.4 billion this year to record a shattering 26.4 billion dollars which is 20.3% of the total US sales and exports in pharma;

(c) if so, whether the Indian Government have agreed to co-operate with the US Pharma sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (Ph RMA) and its member companies have asked the US Government to designate India as a priority foreign country under Special 301 for the year 2000. Ph RMA also requested the US Government to initiate dispute settlement proceedings in WTO to challenge India`s failure to meet its current WTO obligations under TRIPS agreement.

(b) Yes, Sir, the US Companies plan to increase investment in R & D by another $ 2.4 billion to projected investment of $ 26.4 billion.

(c) & (d) The Government has not entered into any agreement with the US on these matters.However, during the period August 1991, to February 2000, Government has approved 74 cases of foreign collaboration in the drugs and pharmaceutical sector with the US companies.